IMT Nuremberg Archives

H – 2262

International Court of Justice

H2262 - 0002

C E R T I F I C A T E

I hereby certify that the annexed document No. USA - 1 is a photostat of an original document submitted in evidence by the United States Prosecution under this number. The original document has been withdrawn in accordance with Rule 10 of the International Military Tribunal, and to the best of my knowledge and belief is to be held at the National Archives, Washington D.C. .

Paul Joosten

Nuremberg, 23 June 1948 PAUL A. JOOSTEN

General Secretary
International Military
Tribunal

H2262 - 0003

OFFICE OF U.S. CHIEF OF COUNSEL FOR WAR CRIMES

EVIDENCE DIVISION

Date : OCT 29 1946

I certify that Document Number _____ was introduced into evidence as Exhibit Number USA 1 in the Trial by the International Tribunal of Hermann GOERING, et al, which commenced on 20 November 1945, and that the attached photostat is a true and correct copy of the original.

Fred Niebergall

Fred NIEBERGALL
Chief, Document
Control Branch.

H2262 -0004

OUTLINE OF METHOD OF CAPTURE, PROCESSING AND ASSEMBLING DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE, AND PLAN OF PRESENTATION TO THE TRIBUNAL....

Robert G. Storey,
U. S. Executive Trial Counsel

- * -

May it please the Tribunal:

It shall be my purpose to outline the method of capturing, assembling, processing and authenticating documents to be presented in evidence by the United States. I shall also describe and illustrate the plan of presenting documents and briefs relating to the United State's Case in Chief.

As the United States Army advanced into German territory, there were attached to each Army and subordinate organization specialized military personnel whose duties were to capture and preserve enemy information in the form of documents, records, reports and other files. The Germans kept accurate and voluminous records. They were found in Army headquarters, government buildings and elsewhere. During the later stages of the war particularly, such documents were found in salt mines, buried in the ground, behind false walls and many other places believed secure by the Germans. For example, the personal correspondence and diaries of Defendant Rosenberg, including his Nazi Party correspondence, were found behind a false wall in an old castle in Eastern Bavaria. The records of the OKL, or Luftwaffe, equivalent to the Headquarters of the Air Staff of our Army Air

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL
NUREMBERG, GERMANY
USA Exhibit 1
Filed Nov. 22, 1945
A 084677

H2262 - 0005

Forces, were found in various places in the Bavarian Alps. Most of such Air Force records were assembled and processed by the Army at Berchtesgaden.

When the Army first captured documents and records, they immediately placed the materials under guard and later assembled them in temporary Document Centers. Many times the records were so voluminous that they were hauled by fleets of Army trucks to the document center. Finally, as the territory seized was made secure, Army zones were established and each Army established a fixed document center to which were transported the assembled documents and records. Later this material was indexed and catalogued, which was a slow process.

Beginning last June, Mr. Justice Jackson requested me to direct the assembling of documentary evidence on the Continent for the U.S. case. Field Teams from our office were organized under the direction of Major William H. Coogan, who established German-speaking, U.S. liaison officers at the main Army document centers. Such officers were directed to screen and analyze the mass of captured documents, and select those having evidentiary value for our case. Literally hundreds of tons of enemy documents and records were screened and examined and those selected were forwarded to Nurnberg for processing. I offer in evidence an affidavit of Major Coogan, dated 19 November 1945, attached hereto,

H2262 - 0006

describing the method of capture, screening, and delivery of such documents to Nurnberg.

After the documents selected by the above screening process reached our office, they were again examined, re-screened, and translated by expert U. S. Army personnel, many of whom had been born in Germany and thus possessed excellent language and background qualifications. Finally, more than 2,500 documents were selected and filed here in the Court House. At least several hundred will be offered in evidence. They have been photographed, translated into English, filed, indexed, and processed. Major Coogan's affidavit also describes this process.

In order to present our case and to assist the Tribunal, we have prepared written briefs on each phase of our case which cite the documents by appropriate numbers. Legal propositions of the United States will also be presented in such briefs. The briefs and documents will cover each allegation of the Indictment which is U. S. responsibility. Accompanying each brief is a Document Book containing true copies in English of all documents referred to in the brief. Likewise, copies in German have been, or will be, furnished to Defense Counsel at the time such documents are offered in evidence. Upon conclusion of the presentation of each phase or section of our case by Counsel, the entire book of documents will be offered in evidence. At the same time, Lt. Barrett will hand to

A 084679

H2262 -0007

the Clerk of the Court the original documents with photostatic copies to be substituted for originals if the Court permits withdrawals of the originals. The briefs will later be passed to the Court and copies to Defense Counsel for such aid and use desired.

Likewise, copies of documents introduced will be available to the Press. Thus it is hoped the usual laborious and tedious method of introducing documentary evidence may be expedited. I have samples of such briefs and document books if the Tribunal desires to examine them for purposes of procedure.

May I, therefore, respectfully inquire of the Tribunal if there is any objection to the procedure outlined. If not, the United States will proceed with the presentation of its documentary evidence and trial briefs as outlined herein.

Robert G. Storey

Nürnberg, Germany,
20 November 1945.

A 08468

H2262 - 0008

19 November 1945

I, MAJOR WILLIAM H. COOGAN, O-455814, O.M.C., a commissioned officer of the Army of the United States of America, do hereby certify as follows:

1. The United States Chief of Counsel in July 1945 charged the Field Branch of the Documentation Division with the responsibility of collecting, evaluating and assembling documentary evidence in the European Theater for use in the prosecution of the major Axis war criminals before the International Military Tribunal. I was appointed Chief of the Field Branch on 20 July 1945. I am now the Chief of the Documentation Division, Office of United States Chief of Counsel.

2. I have served in the United States Army for more than four years and am a practicing attorney by profession. Based upon my experience as an attorney and as a United States Army officer, I am familiar with the operation of the United States Army in connection with seizing and processing captured enemy documents. In my capacity as Chief of the Documentation Division, Office of the United States Chief of Counsel, I am familiar with and have supervised the processing, filing translation and photostating of all documentary evidence for the United States Chief of Counsel.

3. As the Army overran German occupied territory and then Germany itself, certain specialized personnel seized enemy documents, books, and records for information of strategic and tactical value. During the early stages such documents were handled in bulk and assembled at temporary centers. However, after the surrender of Germany, they were transported to the various document centers established by Army Headquarters in the

A 08468

H2262 - 0009

United States Zone of Occupation. In addition to the documents actually assembled at such document centers, Army personnel maintained and secured considerable documents "in situ" at or near the place of discovery. When such documents were located and assembled they were catalogued by Army personnel into collections and records were maintained which disclosed the source and such other information available concerning the place and general circumstances surrounding the acquisition of the documents.

4. The Field Branch of the Documentation Division was staffed by personnel thoroughly conversant with the German language. Their task was to search for and select captured enemy documents in the European Theater which disclosed information relating to the prosecution of the major Axis war criminals. Officers under my command were placed on duty at various document centers and also dispatched on individual missions to obtain original documents. When documents were located, my representatives made a record of the circumstances under which they were found and all information available concerning their authenticity was recorded. Such documents were further identified by Field Branch pre-trial serial numbers, assigned by my representatives who would then periodically dispatch the original documents by courier to the Office of the United States Chief of Counsel.

5. Upon receipt of these documents they were duly recorded and indexed. After this operation, they were delivered to the Screening and Analysis Branch of the Documentation Division of the Office of United States Chief of Counsel, which Branch re-examined such documents in order to finally determine whether or not they should be retained as evidence for the prosecutors. This final

A 084682

H2262 - 0010

screening was done by German-speaking analysts on the staff of the United States Chief of Counsel. When the document passed the screeners, it was then transmitted to the Document Room of the Office of United States Chief of Counsel, with a covering sheet prepared by the screeners showing the title or nature of the document, the personalities involved, and its importance. In the Document Room, a trial identification number was given to each document or to each group of documents, in cases where it was desirable for the sake of clarity to file several documents together.

6. United States documents were given trial identification numbers in one of five series designated by the letters: "PS", "L", "R", "C", and "EC", indicating the means of acquisition of the documents. Within each series documents were listed numerically.

7. After a document was so numbered, it was then sent to a German-speaking analyst who prepared a summary of the document with appropriate references to personalities involved, index headings, information as to the source of the document as indicated by the Field Branch, and the importance of the document to a particular phase of the case. Next, the original document was returned to the Document Room and then checked out to the photostating department, where photostatic copies were made. Upon return from photostating, it was placed in an envelope in one of several fireproof safes in the rear of the Document Room. One of the photostatic copies of the document was sent to the translators, thereafter leaving the original itself in the safe. A commissioned officer has been, and is, responsible for the security

A 084683

H2262 - 0011

of the documents in the safe. At all times when he is not present the safe is locked and a military guard is on duty outside the only door. If the officers preparing the certified translation, or one of the officers working on the briefs, found it necessary to examine the original document, this was done within the Document Room in the section set aside for that purpose. The only exception to this strict rule has been where it has been occasionally necessary to present the original document to the defendants for examination. In this case, the document was entrusted to a responsible officer of the prosecution staff.

8. All original documents are now located in safes in the Document Room, where they will be secured until they are presented by the prosecution to the court during the progress of the trial.

9. Some of the documents which will be offered in evidence by the United States Chief of Counsel were seized and processed by the British Army. Also, personnel from the Office of the United States Chief of Counsel and the British War Crimes Executive have acted jointly in locating, seizing and processing such documents.

10. Substantially the same system of acquiring documentary evidence was utilized by the British Army and the British War Crimes Executive as that hereinabove set forth with respect to the United States Army and the Office of the United States Chief of Counsel.

11. Therefore, I certify in my official capacity as hereinabove stated, to the best of my knowledge and belief, that the documents captured in the British Zone of Operations and Occupation, which will be offered in evidence by the United States Chief of Counsel, have been

A 084681

H2262 - 0012

authenticated, translated, and processed in substantially the same manner as hereinabove set forth with respect to the operations of the United States Chief of Counsel.

12. Finally, I certify, that all Documentary evidence offered by the United States Chief of Counsel, including those documents from British Army sources, are in the same condition as captured by the United States and British Armies; that they have been translated by competent and qualified translators; that all photostatic copies are true and correct copies of the originals and that they have been correctly filed, numbered and processed as above outlined.

William H. Coogan

WILLIAM H. COOGAN
Major, QMC
O-455814

A 084685

H2262 – 0013

USA-1

H-2262

Offered Nov. 22, 1945
Filed Nov. 22, 1945
[illegible]
Secy.

EXHIBIT U.S.A. 1 ( )

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIALS · NÜRNBERG ·

EXHIBIT U.S.A.

1

( )

A 084676

H2262 - 0014